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Today's Weather.

Portland, Dec. 24.—Western Oregon and Western Washington—Sunday, cloudy and threatening, with occasional rain, possibly part snow.

CHILD OF BETHLEHAM.

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of Herod, the king, behold wise men from the east came to Jerusalem.—Matthew II:1.

Risen with healing on His wings, Light and life to all he brings, Hail the Son of Righteousness! Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Holy Father, Holy Son, Holy Spirit, Three in One, Glory as of old to Thee, Now and evermore shall be, Hark! the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King.

The brightest day in the calendar is with us again. The passing years have not julled the eagerness with which men cherish the Evangel of Bethlehem.

Four men accused of crime against the government were brought before the tribunal of justice for a preliminary hearing. So strong was the evidence against them that the judge imposed a heavy bond for their safe appearance at the trial of the case.

As the dejected procession passed out of the dock and shuffled toward the prisoners' room, it came to a dead halt before these tearful women who had just seen those dearest on earth to them practically branded as criminals.

Let us joyfully confess the value of Christmas as a force in our civilization. Our national holidays are few in number, but precious in quality.

countless households of Christendom, each one gathered around their family Christmas tree, laden with gifts of good will one to another.

Christmas, however, while long regarded by much the larger portion of our population as a religious festival exclusively, has now lost its distinctly devotional character, and has practically assumed that of a social festival.

Yes, the beautiful feast of Christmas is here again, and once more the Redeemed is born unto us. The old, bleak stable is once more His palace, and the manger is His throne.

"HOLD UP YOUR HEAD!" All that has been written and sung of the fathomless depths of a mother's love and loyalty, cannot express half the vivid beauty of this most exquisite pure and tender of all the human emotions.

The other illustration of the scriptural truth is here in Astoria, in the death of Professor Lyman, who for years had been a large arc on the Astoria horizon.

"Hold Up Your Head!" Shary, in penetrating tones, these challenging words broke the piteous silence. They were spoken by the old, gray woman, the mother of one of the alleged felons, to her son, who, with burning, downcast face, was slipping from the stare of publicity with his companions.

His guilt, his shame, his fall mattered little to her. He was her son! The fact that he had sinned, that he had been weak, that other men looked with indifferent contempt on him, did not change the sacredness of that relation.

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The ringing injunction which she gave him when his soul was chanting its simple, despairing de profundis, will strike an echoing chord in the hearts of all those who have had or may have erring children—the true, unflinching sentiment of those who have been smirched by their own sad actions—"Hold Up Your Head!"

NEW LIGHT ON AN OLD TRUTH.

If one were minded on this day of preaching to attempt a short lay sermon "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches" would be a pertinent text.

The exposures in a western state, the prisons of two states waiting for the guilty, is an object lesson which may well be laid to heart, not only by those invested with trusts and with financial responsibilities, but by those seeking to compass in every possible way the apparent advantages of riches and great possessions.

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CHRISTMAS PROGRAM.

Appropriate Exercises at St. Mary's Church Will Be Observed Today. Great preparations have been made for the proper observance of Christmas at St. Mary's church today.

The musical program follows: "Oh, Holy Night" Adam Sololists, Miss Madge Sovey, Miss chorus. "Asperges Me" Chorus "Kyrie" Farmer Sololists, Miss Madge Sovey, Miss Kate Sinnott, John Shield and George W. Lerner.

P. A. STOKES "Swell Togs for Men." MERRY YULE-TIDE And our store jammed full of everthing that goes to make the man or boy happy. We will be pleased to help you in your selections. FOR WINTER LEISURE there's a world of satisfaction in the Store open every evening till eight o'clock. Smoking Jackets, House Coats, Lounging Robes. Not High-Priced Goods, for Gift Purposes Only, but Popular Novelties, in Popular Fabrics, at Popular Prices—to supply the wants of the every-day man who appreciates House Comfort. Let us show you the lines—you'll be willing to pay more than we ask. REMEMBER everything guaranteed to give satisfaction or money refunded. P. A. STOKES "Swell Togs for Men."

"Sanctus" Farmer Sololists, Miss Madge Sovey, Miss Kate Sinnott, John Shield and George W. Lerner. "Agnus Dei" Farmer Sololists, Miss Madge Sovey, Miss Kate Sinnott, John Shield and George W. Lerner and chorus. "Ave Maria" Mascagitt Contralto solo—Miss Laura McCann, soloist. "The Birthday of a King" Neidlinger Soprano solo—Miss Kate Shively, soloist.

Church Notices.

Christmas (Sunday) will be observed by the Baptists with a special service of song in the evening. All the regular services of the church will be observed except the evening preaching. Everybody is invited to attend.

Norwegian-Danish M. E. church, at Uppertown. Special Christmas service. Sunday sermon by the pastor at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Christmas festival for the children Monday evening at 7:30. Aug. Petersen, pastor.

Services at the First Lutheran on Christmas as follows: Morning, usual early matins. This service begins at 5:30 immediately following this service there will be the usual morning service, each service lasting about two hours.

At Grace church the Christmas tree, with carol service will take place this evening at 5:30 with offering for the Good Samaritan hospital. Children should bring their presents to be exchanged before noon. The Christmas day services will be at 6:30 and 11 a. m., and at Holy Innocents chapel in Uppertown at 7:30 p. m.

At the Presbyterian church today all the regular services will be imbued with the spirit of the day, the day that commemorates the birth of Him who is the "High Calling of God," the hope of the human race.

Sacred Concert.

The choir of the Baptist church will give a sacred concert Christmas evening at 7:30. The following musical numbers will be given: Voluntary Miss Pearl Estes Anthem Choir

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Fisher's Opera House L. E. SELIG, - - Lessee and Manager

Week Commencing Monday, December 26th

KEITH STOCK COMPANY

A company of accomplished players, appearing in a powerful repertoire of plays replete with special scenic embellishments.

Opening performance Monday, December 26.

"Slaves of Russia"

Followed on other nights by "Brother Against Brother," "Capt. Fresh, U. S. A.," "Senator's Daughter," "Power of Truth" and "Light House Robbery."

PRICES: Reserved Seats, 35c.; Children in Gallery 15c., Adults 25c. Seat sale opens Saturday morning at 9 o'clock at Fisher Bros. Office.

"The Star of Bethlehem" J. M. Stillman Solo "The Birthday of the King" Neidlinger Anthem "There Were Shepherds" R. Earle R. Earle Solo "The Star of Bethlehem" B. Adams Anthem "Glory Be to God in the Highest" W. L. Thompson Sopranos, Miss Lulu Estes, Mrs. F. Crang; alto, Mrs. W. W. Babbage; tenor, Otto Graf; basses, Frank Crang and Dr. O. B. Estes. Organist, Miss Pearl Estes.

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